

103D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2812

To improve recreational boating safety.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 30, 1993

Mr. FIELDS of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries

A BILL

To improve recreational boating safety.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Recreational Boating
5 Safety Act of 1993”.

6 **SEC. 2. INCREASED ENFORCEMENT OF BOATING WHILE IN-**
7 **TOXICATED LAWS.**

8 Not later than one year after enactment of this Act,
9 the Secretary of Transportation, in cooperation with ap-
10 propriate State and local law enforcement officials, shall
11 establish a program to reduce the number of boating acci-

1 dent fatalities by increasing or concentrating enforcement
2 of boating while intoxicated laws in areas where—

3 (1) many boating accidents have occurred; or

4 (2) previous boating accidents involving the use
5 of alcohol have occurred.

6 **SEC. 3. MANDATORY USE OF PERSONAL FLOTATION DE-**
7 **VICES FOR CHILDREN.**

8 Section 4302 of title 46, United States Code, is
9 amended by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

10 “(e) The Secretary shall prescribe regulations requir-
11 ing an individual on a recreational vessel or a personal
12 watercraft who is 12 years of age or younger to wear a
13 personal flotation device, except in an enclosed cabin on
14 a vessel.”.

15 **SEC. 4. PLAN TO APPROVE FULLY INFLATABLE LIFE JACK-**
16 **ETS.**

17 Not later than six months after enactment of this
18 Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall submit to the
19 Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries of the
20 House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
21 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a plan
22 to approve fully inflatable life jackets for use as personal
23 flotation devices under appropriate conditions.

1 **SEC. 5. PLAN TO IMPROVE VESSEL CASUALTY REPORTING.**

2 Not later than one year after enactment of this Act,
3 the Secretary of Transportation shall submit to the Com-
4 mittee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries of the House
5 of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
6 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a plan to in-
7 crease reporting of vessel accidents to appropriate State
8 law enforcement officials.

9 **SEC. 6. INCREASED BOATING CASUALTY INFORMATION.**

10 (a) Not later than six months after the date of enact-
11 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall
12 revise the regulations issued under section 6102 of title
13 46, United States Code, to provide for a three-level State
14 marine casualty reporting system. The reporting system
15 shall require reporting of comprehensive information for
16 each serious recreational vessel accident, including infor-
17 mation on alcohol use, personal flotation device use, and
18 operator education.

19 (b) Section 6103(a) of title 46, United States Code,
20 is amended by inserting “or 6102” after “6101” each time
21 it appears.

22 **SEC. 7. MANDATORY BOATER EDUCATION FOR SERIOUS**
23 **VIOLATIONS.**

24 (a) Section 2302 of title 46, United States Code, is
25 amended by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

1 “(e) An individual operating a recreational vessel in
2 violation of this section shall complete a boating safety
3 course under terms acceptable to the Secretary.”.

4 (b) Section 4308 of title 46, United States Code, is
5 amended—

6 (1) by designating the existing text as sub-
7 section (a); and

8 (2) by adding a new subsection to read as fol-
9 lows:

10 “(b) An individual operating a recreational vessel in
11 violation of this section shall complete a boating safety
12 course under terms acceptable to the Secretary.”.

13 **SEC. 8. SAFE BOATING EDUCATION PLAN.**

14 Not later than six months after enactment of this
15 Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall submit to the
16 Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries of the
17 House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
18 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a plan
19 to provide mandatory safe boating education and certifi-
20 cation to individuals 12 years of age and younger who op-
21 erate recreational vessels.

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